

some Petition thereon they also complain that Madam Blakiston the widow thereof was of a covetous nature made her upon a certain Judgment obtained against them in the Colonels life to be not-withstanding they had sold their tobacco unto the Clerk of the Council which Tobacco the said Madam Blakiston says is not yet paid her therefore some of her men they likewise complain that some of her men has encroacht upon their lands which they have long time enjoyed

W James Stoddant at the Eastern Branch of Potomack in Prince Georges County gives the following Account in relation to the Indians under his hand.

That in February last there came to my House about fifteen Indians which live as I understand them near the mountains they had with them Skins and furs which they offered to sell (the which I bought) when they went away they signified by signs they would come again at the spring of the Year and bring some more Skins at this time there were some families of the Piscataway Indians had their Children at my House but in a few days after they went away I asked their reason of their going so soon from their hunting Quarters they told me that the Emperor had sent for them about the 20<sup>th</sup> of March last having occasion of a Silk Graft net in Order to buy one I went to the Fort I never having seen the Emperor I went to see who the Emperor told me he was very glad to see me I told him my Business upon which he sent to Enquire if there were any news in the fort the Answer was returned there was none afterwards they showed me an old one the which I bought further in discourse the Emperor asked if there was any Body came with me and if I came from Home that morning I answered him I came that morning from Mr Hutchinsons and that he directed me to the Fort further he told me that he heard that there had been some Seneca Indians dealing with me I told him it was so he further told me that news came to him two days ago that a man in Virginiana was shot by Indians & he sent to see and found it false he seemed to blame the English for saying such false Reports

On the 3 day of April last I having been abroad and coming home late the night before in the morning went out to my people to see them to work and what they had done I was scarce sooner come out and talking with some of my people but I heard one of my Negroes cry out we all run to see what was the matter till I came to see about ten Indians naked not painted coming out of a Branch coming towards us upon which I turned about and desired my People to make haste to the Store some time after we found the Negro alive (who lived four days) I asked him if he knew any of the Indians he told me no I asked him how many Indians he saw he told me 3 which he said was lodged in the top of a Tree from whence he was taking Fence Rails and as he was stooping to take up a Rail they shot him at the Back with an Arrow and afterwards run up to him & knocked him down as to what they did else to him as fleeing his head and cutting of one of his ears he was not sensible since that time I having been on board some of the Ships at the mouth of Patuxent at my return my wife informed me that some of those Indians that formerly traded with me had been at my House each of them a Bundle of Skins and would not be satisfied till they had gotten a man to come to the Western Branch of Patuxent to look for me upon which she went up to them and finding that Captain Brightwell had discoursed them then she bought what they offered to sell

of me James Stoddant

W Joseph Chew appearing saith that an Indian that hunted for him told him that in the spring some of his men would be done at Mr Stoddants plantation therefore he would live with him that he might testify for him

Captain Brightwell appearing saith that he and his men keep constantly out a Ranging and that they have infected themselves therefore denies that he may have some small quantity of Powder and Ball two Pickaxes two Spades and two Shovells with some fuzes & Granadoes

Resolved the Indians Objections be answered and some proposals made them and that Colonel Addison Col Courts and Col Brook Col Bell and Major Smallwood Major Barton Mr Hutchinson Mr Hawkins Captain Stokins W Dent and W Hatton be appointed this evening to draw up proposals in order to a treaty with them

Mr Speaker and the rest of the members take their leave and return to the House

Brought from the House of Delegates by Captain Stokins and Major Barton the following Message viz  
By the House of Delegates June the 1<sup>st</sup> 1697

This House humbly desire your Excellency will give Order that the County Court Commissioners be enlarged in limiting them to 10000 tobacco or 50 Sterling being a Great Grievance to the poor therefore we desire they may be as formerly  
Signed for Order W Bladen Sec Delegates.